# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:139
ANSWERED ON:17.02.2009
IMPACT OF ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN ON TRADE PACTS
Dube Shri Ramesh

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of the economic slowdown on trade pacts with other countries particularly China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the indigenous industries in this regard?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)to (c) Impact of economic slowdown on Trade pacts with other countries particularly with China has not been specifically studied. There is no Trade pact with China except APTA (Asia Pacific Trade Agreement) of which China is a member. There has been a slight drop in India's black tea exports to China but this is not necessarily linked to the global economic slow down. Further, there is only one FTA in which India offers tariff concession for natural rubber (NR), the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA). The only NR exporting country among the signatories of APTA is Sri Lanka. Import of NR from Sri Lanka in 2006-07 and 2007-08 totalled to 7644 and 7277 tonnes, forming 8.5 and 8.4 per cent of total import respectively. Import of NR from Sri Lanka during April-December 2008 amounted to 3520 tonnes forming only 5.4 per cent of total import. The import of rubber under APTA is regularly monitored.